

# DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

DG DAVE HARMON & ROBYN ROTARY CLUB OF BALLINA-ON-RICHMOND



Edition 11 JUNE 2024



Welcome to my last newsletter as your District 9640 Governor. This is a joint May and June newsletter. As our District Conference was held in May, we decided to go out with a 'bang' and have a full wrap up in the June edition.

**May was Rotary's Youth Service Month!** Throughout the month, Rotarians, Rotaractors, along with younger members of the Rotary family including Interactors, RYLA and Rotary Youth Exchange participants, celebrate the service, leadership development, connections, and FUN of Rotary's programs for young leaders. Each year worldwide, over 350,000 young leaders participate in our Rotary youth programs. I believe our youth programs are up there with the best valued programs that Rotary offers.



Thank you to our 300 Rotarians, past and future Governors, Assistant Governors, District Leaders, Rotaractors, YEP students, family and community members for joining us for our very successful District Conference in Ballina on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> of May.

Rotary's Youth Service Month is an opportunity to promote our young leaders and with this in mind, let me share with you one of our outstanding young leaders in our District. Parris Smith only recently was a finalist for Queensland Youth Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations Parris, you are a star and a future leader. For those of you who attended our District Conference, you witnessed firsthand, this amazing young woman as Master of Ceremony for the Saturday Plenary Session. Well done, Parris.



A very special thank you to Rotary International President's Representative from District 9685 PDG Lindsay May OAM and wife Rotarian Tania for being part of our conference. It was a pleasure to have our Ballina Shire Mayor Sharon Cadwallader and her husband Rotarian Bruce attend. It was wonderful to have my District 9510 Governor colleague Craig Dowling and wife Kiki from South Australia attend also.





It was a pleasure to share with you my belief in promoting and mentoring the amazing talented youth in our District. Parris smashed the day session and our evening session MC Jacqueline Wark Rotaractor and Rotarian did a great job and co-facilitated the challenging Rotaractor Quiz. Thanks also to YEP Chair Kath Koch for her engaging, informative and fun YEP 'Family Feud' interactive quiz.

While most of our guest speakers may not have been known to many of you, they certainly did not disappoint. It was indeed a pleasure to share with you all, the personal stories of amazing people who live and work in our District. Thank you so much to our speakers, panellists and facilitators for making this a very special conference. Over the years we have had many outstanding conferences and all you can hope for is that attendees go away feeling uplifted.

I would like to share with you some feedback from attendees;

- *By any measure your conference was an outstanding success. Right from the first speaker I asked myself how does the next one surpass this, but the presentations maintained a continual high level of entertainment, information and message.*
- *Congratulations on the best District Conference that I have ever attended! And I have attended many over the last 30 years! Every speaker was amazing and had a real message for all of us. All our members loved every minute. Thank you and your conference team for putting it all together.*
- *I think the correct English descriptive word is 'mesmerizing'. Or should it be 'tantalising'? Invigorating, challenging, arresting? Stimulating? Perhaps all of these. And there were seven other major presentations today as well! A big 'Thank You!' goes to DG Dave Harmon & Robii and his conference team. A very well organised and smoothly run conference indeed.*
- *The program had such wonderful speakers who described their experiences and gave great examples of Hope and Resilience within their projects, and they all received standing ovations which were well deserved. We could actually feel the joy throughout the room as they spoke about their efforts to give Hope to others. Comments from our members were: "This has been the best ever Conference we have ever attended." So, Dave and team, take a bow as you deserve the praise in bringing Hope and Rotary pride to our part of the world.*

A big thank you to our Conference Committee; Chair PDG Terry Brown, Secretary Sue Randel, Treasurer Lyn Chittick and 'all-round Champion of all things' Jodie Shelley. One big advantage of having a club with

plenty of members is that we can get things done. Thank you to the club I am very proud to be a member of Ballina-on-Richmond and our members for your support and assistance throughout the conference.





As our District Conference finished, Robii and I were on the plane heading to Singapore to attend the **Rotary International Convention**. The venue was one of the best you could hope for with engaging and informative speakers. The 'House of Friendship' is always a highlight, and our District was well represented with PDG Andy and volunteers hosting the 'Reproductive Maternal Child Health Action Group' booth.

Our District is also one of 12 that are part of a Global Grant for '*Sustainable Cambodia*'. Clubs and members in our District are great supporters of this project. The

Rotary Club of Summerland Sunrise were present for a photo with participating Districts of the project.

PDG Andy also led a Breakout Session at the convention on 'How to start a Rotary Club in a Corporate Building' along with guest presenters Rotarians Vanessa Jansen and AnneMie Decatte. The presentation was well received with feedback so far being that 5 new Corporate Clubs will be formed around the world in the next couple of months. Well done to our District in championing this model. Both Vanessa and AnneMie were excellent in their presentations with PDG Andy providing the guiding hand to bring it together. Well done.



As we move into the last month of our Rotary year, it is timely that we consider the month of June as our Fellowship month. **Rotary Fellowship Month** is designated to recognize the importance of international fellowship and goodwill among Rotarians with similar recreational and vocational interests. It's a time to promote increased participation in Rotary Fellowships, which are international groups of Rotarians, Rotary partners, and Rotaractors who share a common passion, whether it's related to hobbies or professions. If you're interested in joining a fellowship, you can explore various options based on your interests, such as antique automobiles, bird

watching, fine arts, or even gin enthusiasts. Click on the link to see all the Fellowship opportunities available to you. [Rotary Fellowships | Rotary International](#)

**Fellowship, combined with Friendship, is Rotary's No.1 Core Value.** Let us not forget that the great organisation of Rotary was founded on Friendship. Rotary's ability to create lasting change begins with the bonds we form with each other. Together, it is within our power to bring about positive social change at a local level and more widely, internationally.





I don't often speak in the first person however I do need to say 'I' a couple of times here. This year I did aspire to achieve some challenging outcomes and in doing so I hoped to inspire other Rotarians to do greater things which has given me great joy. The support and leadership shown by many Clubs in championing membership and adopting, promoting and implementing the Rotary says 'No to Domestic and Family Violence' campaign has been amazing.

This campaign has really taken off around Australia. Only recently NSW Police signed a 3-year MOU with Rotary. We have our Roary branded shirts in Primary and Secondary schools, local Council offices, retail

and hospitality. They are everywhere. To provide a perspective, there have been 8000 of our purple shirts purchased this year. This is a great example of **Public Image, Engagement and Impact**. Many licenced clubs in NSW are now adopting 'Purple Friday' which began with a partnership between Cherry Street Sports Group and the Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond. You can now order direct from the supplier these shirts and I encourage you to share this link with interested parties in your community.

[nationalworkwear.com.au](http://nationalworkwear.com.au)

I look forward to being able to dedicate more time to this Zone campaign over the next couple of years.



I wish to sincerely thank my core Leadership Team of PDG Andy, Secretary Sue Randel, Jodie Shelley and my lovely wife Robyn for all their support. It is said that behind every good man is a great woman. I have been blessed to have three of the most amazing, capable and committed women work alongside me this year. They have done all they possibly could to support our District, Clubs, and Members, and provide a 100% commitment to supporting me with my duties.

PDG Andy is a strategic thinker while my strength lies more in the operational area. Over the past years, Andy and I have worked well together, and I sincerely thank him for his mentorship, leadership and friendship.

We have worked hard to build our District membership this year. Rotary International has membership as its No.1 internal priority. Some may ask why? Or as I sometimes hear members say, 'don't mention the 'M' word to us' but we make membership our top priority because our human resource is our most valuable resource and without a strong membership base and

strong active clubs, we are not able to 'Create Hope in the World'

I am pleased to share with you that our District chartered the Rotary Club of Flagstone Wildlife Rescue in Flagstone on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> of June. Flagstone is about a half hour drive from Beaudesert and is a rapidly developing satellite city of Brisbane with an expected population of 120,000 in the coming years. Unfortunately, like in many of our rural areas with busy roads, our natural fauna is affected. This cause-based Club is committed to rescuing, caring for and releasing re-habilitated wildlife back into a safe environment. This Club has been in the planning for several months with AG David Kenny and PDG Andy starting with nothing else but a concept to identify a future major population hot spot and then fit a cause that would connect with the community. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> new Rotary Club formed in our Zone this Rotary year and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> formed in our District this year. AG David Kenny has been instrumental with the formation of both clubs. Well done and congratulations to AG David and PDG Andy.



As we move towards the end of this Rotary year I would like to thank and acknowledge all the Clubs that have finished the year with positive membership growth and as a result, our District should complete the year in the positive. *The star performers are Ballina-on-Richmond with +14, Beaudesert with +9 and Gold Coast with +7 net growth.* Well done.

Thank you to the Clubs that supported *The Rotary Foundation this year. We have done well with a total of \$AUS 248,000 donated.* Further, Robii would like to thank all the personal and club contributions made on her behalf to her Partner Project, The Rotary Foundation. Just over \$50,000 has been pledged.

Congratulations to the top 3 clubs in the District with annual per capita donations.

Club	1-July Members	Annual Fund Per Capita	Rank Per Capita
Surfers Paradise, QLD	20	\$515.58	1
Coomera River, QLD	9	\$440.80	2
Mt. Warning AM (Murwillumbah), NSW	31	\$252.13	3

*Also, congratulations to the top 3 clubs with the highest total contributions to our Foundation: Ballina-on-Richmond \$15,985, Surfers Paradise \$13,537 and Mt Warning AM \$9,624.*

Thank you for your generosity. Let us all continue to recognise and support one of the best, if not the best, charities in the world. Our Foundation is our heart and soul.

DGN John Oomen and DGND Deb Frugtniet share the passion for Rotary and will give all they can to support incoming DG Lisa.

In conclusion, I am pleased to be able to hand over the District Governor batten to DGE Lisa Hunt. Our District is in good hands for the next 3 years with dedicated, motivated and committed leaders working together.

I hope you can join us in celebrating the year that has been in 'Creating Hope in the World' and the 'Magic' of the year ahead at our District Changeover.

*DG Dave*

## MEET OUR FUTURE LEADERS OF D9640



### DGE LISA HUNT COOMERA RIVER ROTARY

Lisa was born and raised in Southport QLD and after transferring to Sydney with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, started her association with Rotary as the Charter President of

Camden/Narellan Rotaract Club (D9750) in 1994. In April 1995, she was selected to be part of the Group Study Exchange team (GSE) from D9750 Australia to D2350 Sweden. This experience reinforced Lisa's passion to make

a difference locally and globally. When Lisa, Gareth and their daughter Sarah moved back to the Gold Coast in December 2010, the connection with Rotary then expanded to include all members of the family. They are all members of the Rotary Club of Coomera River, of which Lisa and Sarah are past presidents. Gareth is a past president of the Rotary Club of Hope Island.

Lisa has over 20 years' experience working in executive roles in HR and WHS across the Residential Property industry, Banking and Financial Services and Motoring and Services sectors across Australia and New Zealand.



### DGN JOHN OOMEN EVANS HEAD ROTARY

John lives in Casino, Northern Rivers of NSW. and is a member of Evans Head Rotary Club.

John grew up in Parkes, NSW, and joined the Commonwealth Bank, moving to Sydney for 10 years to work

in the CBA's Data Processing department. John moved

back to Parkes to raise his family with wife Narelle. John studied ICT and business at CSU Bathurst. John started his first business in 1983 and have been full time self-employed since 1998 working in the IT industry.

John was invited to join the Rotary Club of Forbes in 1998 and has been Club President three times, the first time as a charter president. John served as AG for three years and was recently appointed to the Board of RAWCS.



### DGND DEB FRUGTNIET PARKWOOD ROTARY

Deb is Gold Coast born and lived her whole life between here and a little town in Central QLD, Yeppoon. As the middle child of 6 and Aunty to 26, family is incredibly important to Deb and her hubby of 25yrs Craig. They

have 2 beautiful daughters Lily & Macy, the very best son in law Locky and a darling little grandson Layken.

For 30yrs Deb worked in hospitality across numerous roles, but a few years ago made the change to Disability Support where she found her true calling. Deb is an advocate for

disability inclusion and respecting differences in others, she loves helping her clients live their best lives and empowers them to grow their confidence and independence.

Deb is a Past President and has held numerous Board positions over her 11yrs as a member of Rotary Club of Parkwood. Deb is also incredibly passionate about raising funds and awareness for Cancer Council QLD after losing her mum Razzel to leukemia in 2010. Since then, Deb has raised almost \$200,000 in her mum's honour and will continue to do so into the future. Deb is also a founding member and chairperson of The Jack Beasley Foundation which is raising awareness and education around youth violence.



## MEMBERS NEW TO CLUBS

### Ashmore

Owen Caterer

### Ballina Lifestyle Satellite

Pat Buckley

Mary Ford

Selwyn Ford

Dorothy Fowell

### Ballina-on-Richmond

Robert Coote

Hartley's Fresh Market

Mark McKay

Joanne Sayer

### Banora-Tweed

Maija Kola

### Beaudesert

Jacueline Atkinson

Joanna Dempsey

Aileen Gutierrez

Aileen Heard

Raquel Johnstone

Sheryl Macalintal

Rosefel Peel

Fritzie Perocho

### Broadwater

### Southport

Shirley Jorritsma

### Currumbin-Coolangatta-Tweed

Thiago de Andrade

Silva

Joanna Deegan

### e-Club of NextGen Qld

Robert Haubt

Graham Jones

Marion Jones

Jane Welsh

### Flagstone Wildlife Rescue

Alisha Bradley

Irene Bradley

Matthew Bradley

Gregory Brigg

Karen Dickson

John Dunn

Melinda Dunne

Scott Dunne

Melville Euler

Tanya Euler

Janelle Fletcher

Natalie Garner

Tiffany Graham

Naomi Kearns

Josh Keepence

Joseph King

Daphne McGuinness

Craig Murley

Edie Pearce

Nev Pearce

Stacey Pearce

Fran Stewart

Emily Stubbins

Phillip Tanner

Emma Weston

Russell Wickson

Bob Wiley

Maureen Wiley

Julie Zawila

### Gold Coast

### Corporate

Andrew Rooke

### Gold Coast

Maggie Alexander

Mike Hetherington

### Grafton Midday

Amanda Brien

### Hope Island

Bruce Maizey

### Iluka Woombah

Susan Herman

Leica Schubert

### Mudgeeraba

Cheryl Parker

### Northern Gold Coast (Rotaract)

Michael Viljoen

### Parkwood

Janvi Makanjee

### Scenic Rim Sunrise

Catherine Schroeder

Theresa Steeg

### Surfers Paradise

John Monks

### Surfers Sunrise

Iain Campbell

Elizabeth Celi

### Tenterfield

Claire Robinson

### The Granite Belt

Meagan Leotta

## FALLS PREVENTION PROJECT

As I look to finish my term, I am reflecting upon the work towards the Rotary Falls Prevention project. The project has already achieved significant things. This includes presenting at the NSW Government Roundtable on Falls Prevention and most recently, a fantastic effort from Clubs to help pilot awareness tables during April Falls Month. This pilot follows my suggestion in preparation for a proposal to the Rotary Regional Council to take the project national. Thank you to the Rotary Club of Lismore West for leading and to all the 9640 Clubs that participated.



As you know, we need to further develop the project materials to share them with all of Australia's 1100 Rotary Clubs and to help raise awareness of falls prevention nationally. I am pleased to give you a follow-up to the project and the survey findings from April Falls Month, facilitated through the support of Northern New South Wales Local Health District's Health Promotion team. Click [HERE](#) to see more!

**Falls Prevention Committee,  
Rotary Club of Lismore West**

## FOUNDATION MOMENTS

Quick insights into *your* charity — The Rotary Foundation

### WHAT IS THE ROTARY FOUNDATION'S ENDOWMENT FUND?

Gifts to the Endowment ensure that Rotary members will have the resources they need to design and implement sustainable projects forever.

Donations to the Endowment can be made as an outright gift or a planned gift, such as a bequest in your will. Currently, Rotary's Endowment totals US\$756.0 million and has further commitments of \$973.8 million.

Contributions to this fund are invested for the future. Only current earnings from the investments are used to support Foundation programs year after year.



**This approach means that people's generosity does good in the world in perpetuity.**

< Visit [my.rotary.org/donate](https://my.rotary.org/donate)

The  
**Rotary**  
Foundation





## Rotary Friendship Exchange - Visit to District 1010 Scotland – 30th May to 12th June 2024

In 2019 we started planning for a Rotary Friendship Exchange with Scotland. This was to take place in 2020 but Covid interrupted plans and the visit was postponed until 2024.



The team was

*Banora Tweed:* Wendy Scarlett & Charles Warrell  
Janette Glynn

*Iluka Woombah:* Stephen & Gabriele Behn  
Graeme & Anne Lockyer

*Jimboomba and Beaudesert:* Geoff & Kathy Smith

*Mermaid Beach:* Ron & Allison Borland

We met in person and on Zoom many times before departure to plan our gifts, power point presentation, personal travel, expenses and the return visit. Planning is the key to the success of any RFE and our team members all took on various jobs to work as a team.

From the welcome function which was attended by many of our hosts and district RFE committee to our farewell, we had an amazing time.

The hospitality of the hosts who drove and acted as tour guides was fantastic. The Scots went out of their way to show us their part of the world. We stayed in 4 areas – Angus Glens which is north of Dundee, Aberdeen, Forres and East Sutherland in the northeast of the country.

Some of the itinerary included visiting castles, vodka distillery, Culloden Battlefield, Clava Cairns, St Andrews, mystery bus tour to raise funds for toilets in 3 schools in Nepal, day trip to Plockton on the far west coast, golf at Royal Dornoch golf club for 3 team members and many historical sites and museums to



learn about the way of life for early inhabitants. We certainly saw a lot in 2 weeks.

The team attended 4 Rotary meetings and were guest speakers at 3 of these. The highlight of the exchange was meeting so many wonderful hosts and learning about their way of life and club projects. Many ideas were shared over lunches and dinners at local restaurants and Rotarians homes. A team of Rotarians from D1010 will visit our District in October to enjoy learning about our area and will be hosted by the outbound team and other Rotarians from their clubs.



Rotary Friendship Exchange is a wonderful way to make friends all over the world and enjoy another country from a different perspective, not as a tourist, but as a friend of a local. It is also a great way to get to know other Rotarians in our district.

**Wendy Scarlett, Team Leader, RFE Scotland**

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORT!**

